



IMAGE

1647

Attorney Docket No. 57127 (46342)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S) Takuya Watanabe, et al. EXAMINER: Not Yet Assigned
U.S.S.N.: 10/070,240 GROUP: Not Yet Assigned
FILED (U.S.): February 27, 2002 Conf. No. 2962
FOR: NOVEL G PROTEIN-COUPLED RECEPTOR PROTEIN AND DNA
THEREOF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, in an envelope with sufficient postage as first class mail addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 11, 2003.

By:

Crystal Slason
Crystal Slason

TRANSMITTAL

Enclosed herewith for filing in the subject application are the following:

1. Transmittal (2 Pages);
2. Response to Restriction Requirement (2 Pages); and
3. Return Receipt Postcard.

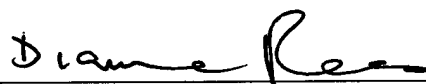
Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed

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for any excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit
Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 11, 2003



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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This paper is responsive to the Restriction Requirement mailed August 11, 2003.

THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has restricted the claims into five groups:

Group I including claims 1-2, 9, and 11 drawn to a protein which comprises the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as SEQ ID NO:1 and a method of determining a ligand to the protein;

Group II including claims 3-7 and 14 drawn to a DNA encoding the protein of SEQ ID NO: 1;

Group III including claim 8 drawn to an antibody to the protein of SEQ ID No: 1;

Group IV including claim 10 drawn to a method of screening a compound or its salt that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein; and

Group V including claims 12-13 drawn to a compound or its salt that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein or its salt.

The Examiner asserts that the groups are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1


RESPONSE

Applicants hereby elect Group I which presently includes claims 1-2, 9, and 11, with traverse. The election is made solely to comply with the Office Action and should not be construed as a surrender of any subject matter in the application. The right to file divisional applications on the non-elected claims is reserved.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all claims are allowable as written and respectfully request early favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

Date: September 11, 2003

Respectfully submitted,
By: 
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